

# Labor Resources for North Charleston, South Carolina

## Executive Summary

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This profile contains information about the labor force within a 30 minute and 45 minute commuting distance from the center of North Charleston, South Carolina. North Charleston is located in Charleston County, South Carolina.

The profile examines three issues: labor force characteristics, the availability of labor, and the average wages and salaries in the community of North Charleston.

## Labor Situation at a Glance in North *Charleston*, South Carolina

Labor Force Characteristics	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Population, 2004	171,945	340,452	4,198,068
Labor Force, 2004	78,704	154,855	2,046,179
Availability of Labor	within 30 min.	within 45 min.	South Carolina
Unemployed Workers, 2004	4,631	9,074	139,607
Unemployment Rate, 2004	5.9%	5.5%	6.8%
Workers Affected by Layoffs (Past 2 Years)	219	426	22,196
Average Wages	Charleston County	South Carolina	United States
2003 Avg. Weekly Wage	\$572	\$581	\$658

## Labor Force Characteristics for North Charleston, South Carolina

The composition and size of a community's labor force is linked very closely with demographic and economic conditions and trends in the region. The following labor force profile provides basic information on the population base and labor force characteristics so that the reader can better assess labor force conditions in the community.

Labor Force			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force 2004	78,704	154,855	2,046,179
Change since 2000	-7,324	-11,151	49,079
Population			
Population 2004	171,945	340,452	4,198,068
Change since 2000	9,718	20,556	186,056
Projected 2010	177,081	355,251	4,446,704
Gender Distribution			
Male	83,762	166,471	2,040,261
Female	88,183	173,981	2,132,454
Age Distribution			
Ages 20-34	38,477	74,621	875,330
Ages 35-49	37,810	75,554	925,330
Ages 50-64	28,561	56,439	739,980
20-54 *Prime Working Age	87,689	172,707	2,084,880
Highest Level of Educational Attainment			
High School	43,459	90,310	778,054
Some College	37,677	75,533	500,194
Associate Degree	11,800	23,886	173,428
Bachelors Degree	30,460	56,738	351,526
Post Bachelor	16,575	30,437	178,529

*\*Prime working age group:*  
People between the ages of 18-54 are often referred to as the prime working age group. In staffing a new facility, prudent managers often prefer to staff its production work force with workers whose ages form a normal distribution curve. This provides for stability, flexibility and continuity of knowledge.

Source: 2004 Estimates Based on 2000 U.S. Census of Population and Woods and Poole, 2003 Edition

## Employment Characteristics for North Charleston, South Carolina

Total Employment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
2004	74,074	145,780	1,906,571

*Total Employment* data include all full and part-time wage and salaried workers in the area. These people may or may not reside in the area.

Monthly Employment by Sector In Charleston County			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
<b>Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing and Hunting</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>436</b>	<b>12,379</b>
<b>Mining</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>88</b>	<b>1,603</b>
<b>Utilities</b>	<b>281</b>	<b>532</b>	<b>11,891</b>
<b>Construction</b>	<b>5,532</b>	<b>10,214</b>	<b>111,730</b>
<b>Manufacturing</b>	<b>5,331</b>	<b>11,668</b>	<b>275,573</b>
Wood product manufacturing	73	201	8,371
Nonmetallic mineral product manufacturing	287	676	9,155
Primary metal manufacturing	347	949	6,317
Fabricated metal product manufacturing	375	756	27,357
Machinery manufacturing	274	462	21,278
Computer and electronic product manufacturing	55	93	7,666
Electrical equipment and appliance mfg.			10,748
Transportation equipment manufacturing	770	1,421	30,932
Furniture and related product manufacturing	200	323	4,225
Miscellaneous manufacturing	257	433	7,846
Food manufacturing	166	270	17,832
Beverage and tobacco product manufacturing			1,445
Textile mills	114	207	40,207
Textile product mills	43	113	9,724
Apparel manufacturing	16	25	5,321
Paper manufacturing			14,710
Printing and related support activities	132	220	7,327
Petroleum and coal products manufacturing			288
Chemical manufacturing	540	1,126	21,659
Plastics and rubber products manufacturing	63	121	23,054
<b>Wholesale Trade</b>	<b>2,098</b>	<b>3,774</b>	<b>62,523</b>
<b>Retail Trade</b>	<b>11,110</b>	<b>20,089</b>	<b>224,031</b>
<b>Transportation and Warehousing</b>	<b>3,418</b>	<b>6,072</b>	<b>46,941</b>
<b>Education and Health Services</b>	<b>14,227</b>	<b>23,945</b>	<b>156,232</b>
<b>Leisure and Hospitality</b>	<b>11,367</b>	<b>19,715</b>	<b>192,748</b>

<b>Professional and Business Services</b>	<b>10,618</b>	<b>18,147</b>	<b>186,481</b>
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Source: 2003 Covered Wages, SC Employment Securities Commission

<b>Largest Industries by Total Employment In Charleston County</b>				
Company Name	City	Primary Product/Service	Employment	Date Est.
MeadWestvaco	N. Charleston	Kraft board & paper	1,230	1936
Evening Post Publishing Co	Charleston	Newspapers	647	1894
Detyens Shipyards Inc	N. Charleston	Ship repairs & modifications	625	1962
American LaFrance Corp	Ladson	Fire trucks	577	2002
Scientific Research Corp	N. Charleston	Network control systems	450	1992
Behr Heat Transfer Systems	Charleston	Engine cooling systems	400	1993
North Safety Products	N. Charleston	Rubber gloves	358	1948
Hill-Rom Company	N. Charleston	Efica therapy unit	340	1976
Holset Engineering Co	N. Charleston	Turbo charging equipment	314	1989
MeadWestvaco/Chemicals Div	N. Charleston	Tall oil products	302	1938
Eagan,McAllister Associates	Charleston	Engineering services	300	1989
Goer Manufacturing Co	N. Charleston	Stone fixtures	250	1944
North Safety Products	Charleston	Chemical protective gloves	250	1981
First Contact Inc	N. Charleston	Customer call center	240	2000
Banks Construction Co	N. Charleston	Asphalt paving	210	1948
Metal Trades Inc	N. Charleston	Heavy metal fabrication	190	1962
Rhodia Inc	Charleston	Organic chemicals	189	1851
Quovadx Inc	Charleston	Software development	185	1994
Evans Rule Co	Charleston	Steel measuring tapes	175	1973
Boeing Co	Charleston	Field services for C-17	144	1996

## Employer-Employee Relationship

Employer-employee relations in South Carolina are very stable and the state consistently ranks as one of the least unionized in the nation. In 2004, only 4.5 percent of the state's workers were members of a labor union. Additionally, the state has consistently had one of the lowest work stoppage rates in the United States. On average, less than .01 percent of working time was lost due to strikes in manufacturing and non-manufacturing industries combined.

## Availability of Labor

### Labor Force Participation & Unemployment

Labor Force Participation & Unemployment			
Year	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Labor Force (2004)	78,704	154,855	2,046,179
Labor Force Change from 2000	-7,324	-11,151	49,079
Labor Force Participation Rate	46%	46%	49%
Unemployment (2004)	4,631	9,074	139,607
Unemployment Rate	5.9%	5.5%	6.8%

The *labor force participation* rate is the percentage which results from dividing the labor force count by the total population.

*Unemployment* reflects the total number of persons who do not have a job and are actively seeking employment.

### Other Potential Sources of Labor Supply

Total Jobs Lost Due to Mass Closings and Layoffs Past Two Years			
Sector	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Total	219	426	22,196
Manufacturing	196	377	19,196
Distribution	10	28	1,213
Service	13	22	1,745
Other	-	-	42

Recent closings and layoffs are a rich source of skilled and experienced labor for companies seeking to locate or expand in a given area. Industries in which layoffs and closings occur can provide some indication of the skills and knowledge-base of many unemployed and underemployed workers in a region.

Commuters to Other Areas			
	30 min. Drive time	45 min. Drive time	South Carolina
Commuters to other areas	16,862	43,333	31,833

Source: 2000 U.S. Census of Population

Workers commuting to places outside their residence are a significant source of experienced labor for new and expanding industries. These workers may be willing to consider an opportunity for employment nearer their place of residence.

## Recent Graduates of South Carolina's Colleges and Universities

<b>Certificates/Degrees Conferred From Technical Colleges in Select Degrees Within 45 Minute Drive Time of Charleston County, SC</b>	
Degree Area	Two Year Certificates Conferred 2002 - 2004
Computer and Information Sciences (Total)	273
Data Processing Technology	87
Engineering Technologies (Total)	203
Electrical ,Electronic & Communications	20
Mechanical Engineering/Tech	6
Mechanic & Repair Technologies (Total)	145
Industrial Electronics	*
HVAC	27
Precision Production (Total)	91
Machine Tool Technology/Machinist	56

<b>Graduation From South Carolina's Four Year Colleges and Universities In Select Degrees</b>		
	Degrees Conferred (2002-2004)	
	Bachelors	Post- Grad
Computer and Information Science (Total)	910	108
Computer Engineering	150	149
Computer Programming	12	5
Engineering & Related Technologies (Total)	1,316	786
Chemical Engineering	136	38
Electrical Engineering	257	150
Industrial Engineering	78	44
Mechanical Engineering	268	95
Business Admin & Management	4,754	1,018
International Business/Trade	178	276

Source: South Carolina Commission on Higher Education

## Wages and Salaries

Average Wage and Salary Comparison			
Sector	Charleston County	South Carolina	United States
Avg. Weekly Wages*	\$572	\$581	\$658
Avg. Annual Salary*	\$29,767	\$30,240	\$37,508
Avg. Hourly Prod. Wages**	N/A	\$14.73	\$16.14

\*Covered Wages and Employment, 2003, SC Employment Securities Commission

\*\* Employment & Earnings, 2004, U.S. Department of Labor

Average Annual Salary Manufacturing Sectors, 2004		
Sector	Charleston County	South Carolina
Manufacturing Total	\$43,968	\$39,027
Wood product	\$29,516	\$30,808
Nonmetallic mineral product	\$41,591	\$39,031
Primary metal	\$23,084	\$49,695
Fabricated metal product	\$34,935	\$37,533
Machinery	\$43,311	\$39,952
Computer and electronic product	\$43,218	\$40,186
Electrical equipment and appliance	***	\$40,178
Transportation equipment	\$39,943	\$44,099
Furniture and related product	\$39,437	\$27,907
Miscellaneous	\$35,514	\$34,350
Food	\$31,329	\$26,620
Beverage and tobacco product	***	\$35,765
Textile mills	\$48,726	\$31,898
Textile product mills	\$23,193	\$25,618
Apparel	\$33,908	\$23,705
Paper	***	\$55,139
Printing and related support activities	\$24,795	\$36,634
Petroleum and coal products	***	\$49,113
Chemical	\$55,363	\$50,870
Plastics and rubber products	\$35,327	\$46,620

\*\*\*Indicates data suppressed

Source: Covered Wages and Employment, SC Employment Securities Commission

## Occupational Wages In North Charleston and Surrounding Area

Average Hourly Wages of Employees by Selected Non-Exempt Occupations For Charleston County Area*			
Non-Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Assemblers and Fabricators	*	*	*
Butchers and Meat Cutters	\$8.23	\$9.96	\$10.94
Cabinetmakers and Bench Carpenters	*	*	*
Chemical Equipment Operators	*	*	*
Chemical Plant & System Operators	*	*	*
Electrical & Electronic Equip Tenders	\$8.90	\$10.80	\$12.20
Extruding & Forming Machine Setters	*	*	*
Grinding & Lapping Machine Operators	\$8.82	\$10.54	\$11.87
Logging Equipment Operators	\$9.43	\$11.17	\$12.95
Installation, Maintenance & Repair	\$11.02	\$15.26	\$18.69
Machine Tool Setters & Tenders	\$9.92	\$11.79	\$13.27
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	*	*	*
Machinists	\$11.10	\$13.71	\$16.33
Packaging & Filling Machine Op	*	*	*
Molding & Casting Machine Op	\$10.17	\$11.46	\$12.96
Sewing Machine Operators	*	*	*
Textile, Cutting Machine Operators	*	*	*
Truck Drivers, Heavy & Tractor-Trailer	\$12.11	\$16.03	\$19.55
Welders, Cutters & Solderers	\$11.99	\$13.79	\$15.84
Woodworking Machine Setters	*	*	*
Average Salary of Employees by Selected Exempt Occupations For Charleston County Area*			
Exempt Occupations	Entry	Average	Experienced
Chemical Engineers	\$52,640	\$66,540	\$79,900
Computer Programmers	\$31,940	\$40,440	\$47,660
Engineers, NEC	\$36,420	\$55,340	\$69,440
First Line Production Man & Sup	\$28,340	\$41,220	\$53,020
Industrial Engineers	\$52,060	\$60,400	\$68,920
Mechanical Engineers	\$36,340	\$45,420	\$55,800

Source: *Occupational Wage Survey*, SC Employment Security Commission

\* Indicates Suppressed Data or Data Not Available